Senate Bill 3
Revise Telecommunications Law

Informational Testimony by Jeff Brandt
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Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Jeff Brandt. I am the Deputy Chief Information Officer of the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), within the Department of Administration. The Statewide 9-1-1 Program is administered by the Department. I would like to introduce Ms. Becky Berger, the manager of the Statewide 9-1-1 Program.

This bill will change the definition of "Regulated Telecommunications Services" and eliminate price, terms and conditions and service quality regulation for all non-access line services.

This proposed change could impact how 9-1-1 services are offered to the Montana Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The only services that would be regulated under SB3 are residential and business end user access lines. It is not clear to the Department if 9-1-1 emergency reporting service would be included as a regulated telecommunications service. Currently, "9-1-1 emergency service", as it is referred to in the tariff, is subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission and ensures the affordability of enhanced 9-1-1.

Information provided to the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee by the Montana Public Services Commission indicates that 9-1-1 emergency service would be deregulated under SB 3. Our office has heard conflicting interpretations as to the impact of the bill and potential amendments on 9-1-1 services. One potential amendment being discussed addresses **access** to emergency services but does not clarify if the rates, terms and conditions, and service quality of 9-1-1 services would remain under the PSC's jurisdiction.

I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.